



The Onyx Informer

Representing Black Culture at Northeastern University

Since 1972

September 3, 1997



Chillin' in the new 'Tute: Students enjoy Open House at African-American Institute (photo credit:Christine B. Dela Cueva)

NU Student Releases Single

By Kami-Leigh Agard
Onyx Staff

He calls himself the Akrobatik.

Jared Bridgeman, a native of Dorchester and a Middler at Northeastern, is always battling. Battling with the Bursar, Financial Aid and on stage.

Yes on stage.

Bridgeman, also known as Akrobatik, just released his first rap single featuring songs "Ruff Enuff," "Woman" and "The Fat Sh*t" on the label, Detonator Records.

He said he chose his name because he flips his words like an acrobat. "Back in the early 80s, if somebody really said a rhyme good he flipped it. Who flips words better than an acrobat?" said Bridgeman.

"If you study African American history, you will read about the dozens. You battled your opponent with words in a poetic form. The winner was the one who had the ability to crush their opponent with their words. It was a war of the rhymes."

Battle this:

"I'll be the microphone mutilator taking rap to a greater standard, with every pugilistic flow a new blow is landed...Then I'm kidnapping your first sons and intellect learnin' them cause you lack the genes to put a decent brain in them. You only tellin' them about hookers and methods of maintainin' them. I tell them about the keys to wisdom and how to be gainin' them."

See AKROBATIK, Page 6

African-American Institute Gets Renovated

By Ana Toro
Onyx Staff

This year's early summer storms did not mark the first time that heavy rains flooded the African American Institute's bottom floor, the Cabral Center. It was the third time that Mother Nature took its toll on the Institute; and while the renovations have Kafui Tsaku, a frequent AAI visitor, saying "Thank God for rain," others feel that the renovations were long overdue. "It is sad that it took something so drastic to renovate a place that is so special

to many of us on campus," said Middler Maximillion Shell-Crawford.

The Cabral Center was most deeply affected by the storms.

For the Institute, this flood was the last straw. When insurance representatives came to look at the damages, they realized that the walls caved in when they were kicked. Such was the extent of the damage caused by trapped water. So how come it took so long to renovate the building and fix these problems? According to Dean Petty, the Institute had not been informed of due

process in the event of a flood. It was assumed that those in charge of repairs would do what was necessary to ensure that the building was taken care of properly. However, not enough attention was given to the Institute and its flood problem.

Brief History of the Institute:

The Institute has come a long way since its original building near Dudley. Once it moved to an on-campus location, it was first housed on Forsyth Street. It later moved into an old factory with high ceilings, which eventually became the

Institute as we know it today.

The Renovations:

Since June, the Institute has been getting a new and improved image. Many in the University community as well as outside it, such as the Chisholm and Washington Architectural Firm, were instrumental in the progress of the renovations.

After the latest renovation, the Institute now boasts a colorful Cabral Center. Gone are the days of grayish white walls that prompted many to complain about their dull tones; his

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Meet The President

To those of you who are joining the Northeastern family for the first time as freshmen, transfer and new graduate students, I wish to extend a warm greeting. More than 14,000 high school seniors applied to Northeastern for the 2,800 available seats in this year's freshman class. Applications from students interested in transferring from other colleges and universities soared, too. Competition was tougher than ever before, and you made the cut. I want you to know that you were chosen for a reason. We picked you

because we saw in you the academic ability and the entrepreneurial spirit it takes to succeed at this university. There's a lot to cover and you'll be expected to work hard, but you'll also meet the people who will become your best friends, advocates



President Freeland
(photo credit: J.D. Levine)

and role models as you take on the responsibilities of adult life. I look forward to meeting you and to the contributions, insights and energy you bring to our community.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to offer some advice. Figuring out how to fit into a new place can be hard. The key is to reach out and get involved - in sports, in a club, as a volunteer. So don't be shy. Make connections with your classmates and with us. Introduce yourselves to your professors.

Get to know the staff in student affairs, financial aid, residential life, the library, academic affairs and your college dean's office. Don't hesitate to ask questions. We're here to help you get off to a good start and maintain that momentum as you take on leadership roles and make your marks at Northeastern.

To those who are returning from a summer off or a co-op job, welcome back. I am counting on your help in continuing the dialogue on race begun last spring.

Working together we can harness our collective energy and

commitment to increase positive communication among the multitude of cultures that make up Northeastern. By engaging all of our varied constituencies in an ongoing discussion, we can eliminate lingering misunderstandings and stereotypes.

By celebrating our differences, we can achieve the pluralistic society to which the university aspires. I pledge you my support in this effort and look forward to your participation as the year progresses.

Finally and most importantly, thank you for being part of Northeastern. I hope you'll wear your Husky colors with pride in the months and years to come.

President Richard Freeland

NU's First Black Provost Speaks

By Linda Betharte,
Elvin Freytes
Onyx Staff

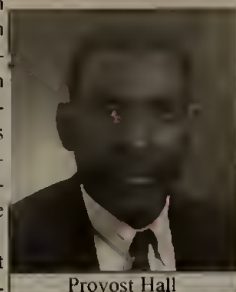
The new provost, David

Hall, former Dean of the Northeastern Law School is focusing his attention on an issue that affects most of us black students trying to get on campus, access to the University.

"We must maintain the tradition of being an institution that opens its doors to students who others might not accept."

Hall said President Freeland's vision for Northeastern as a smaller institution may conflict with that Northeastern tradition.

Earlier this year at a meeting with the black student body, President Freeland outlined his goals for lifting the standards for admission into the University.



Provost Hall

Hall said he will work on maintaining and making more effective the programs that offer us black and latino students an avenue into the University.

He plans to work on policies that will keep more Northeastern students here until graduation

Hall also wants to improve retention rates. "Low retention rates are an obvious problem for students of color at this university," said Hall "but it is also a problem for all students."

As provost Hall is now the middle-man between the university and the president, "I have to do things that will help the colleges accomplish their goals while remaining within the context of the President's vision."

Hall says he started teaching because he saw the connection between himself and students of color and he still sees that connection and wants to make sure that he is accessible to the students.

INSTITUTE from Page 1

supervisor. The walls are now painted in the colors of the Black Liberation flag: red and green. There is also a touch of yellow to accentuate the colors. Dean Petty said, "The colors were chosen because they were consistent with the African American Institute, its values and origins."

In addition to these changes,

the configuration of the first floor of the Institute is different. The John D. O'Bryant area has been redesigned in an effort to enhance and focus on his portrait. The entrance to the Cabral Center is centered within the new structural changes. The Institute also now has a lounge area.

Other major players include Bernard Grant, Senior Buyer in the Purchasing Department at Northeastern; his supervisor, Walter Lind and David Flynn, Director of Space Planning and Analysis. They were responsible for making sure that repairs ran smoothly and on time. After all, the last thing the Institute wanted was for the school year to start without it being in shape to welcome fresh faces and catch up with the better-known ones.

Affirmative Action Office Steps Into 2000

By Linda Betharte
Onyx Staff

This year the Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity wants the entire campus to know that they are here for us.

Donnie Perkins the new director of the office said he will focus his attention on reestablishing the services of the office and making them known to the campus university.

The office has been without a director for a year.

This year Perkins said he wants to work with campus and student organizations on programs that will help educate the Northeastern community

on some of the issues the office deals with.

They deal with problems of discrimination of any sort, harassment, or bias that a student, staff or faculty member may encounter while here at Northeastern.

Perkins hopes that by sponsoring programs like the Dialogue on Race held in the Curry Student Center last spring, the office can also start working on preventing incidents of discrimination and bias on campus.

The programs will also give the office more visibility, which is important now that they have moved from their former office

in Richards hall to 716 Columbus Place room 428. The new office although not as centralized as their former location is more spacious and will allow for the hiring of more staff members. The office will be hiring work-study students and they already have a co-op student working there.

MAXIMIZE

Your Exposure!
Advertise in
The Onyx Informer
Call us at (617) 373-2250

A New Year Begins Say Word!



"Cool"
Jon Girodes, Transfer, Business



"Co-op"
Flora Wolman, Freshman, Psychology



"Friends"
Amit Bhambi, Freshman
Computer Engineering

Northeastern in A Word...



"Interesting"
Cephas Small, Freshman
Electrical Engineering



"Busy"
Aine Harris, Freshman, Marketing
"Diverse"
Chanel Bryant, Freshman, Biochemistry
"Big"
Tania Dell, Freshman, Undecided

(photo credits:
Christine B. Dela Cueva)

Where's The Beef?

By Jamila Hill
Onyx Staff

What is a meat market? According to everyday lingo, a meat market is the deli section of the supermarket. But common, college vernacular defines it as a place where guys go to get girls and vice versa. Why the distinction? Well, according to three female college students from Boston, the latter refers to Virginia Beach on Labor Day weekend.

Tamara Spied, a 22-year-old international law student at Suffolk University; Keisha Largie, a 22-year-old marketing student at UMass-Boston; and Dawn Jones, a 22-year-old journalism student at Northeastern University had traveled from Boston to Virginia to celebrate the Labor Day weekend away from home.

"I came to Virginia Beach to relax before I started school," said Keisha.

"I just wanted to have some fun before the summer was over. This was my last fling," said Tamara.

These three students

drove around, went out to parties and clubs, spent a day at Busch Gardens, and also walked the Virginia Beach strip, where they had their own personalized tour of "the meat market."

"What I saw at the beach was offensive to my eyes," said Dawn.

Dawn, Keisha, and Tamara saw girls walking down Virginia Beach Drive practically naked, wearing thongs, skirts with slits so high that they could not have been wearing underwear, and bikini-tops so tight that their breasts bulged out.

"Women were just disrespecting themselves," said Keisha.

"They would walk around with their butts hanging out and running to the guys that called them," said Tamara.

The males did more than just call females. Guys did everything from asking the girls for an interview and then videotaping their butts, to grabbing girls and fondling various parts of their body. "Virginia Beach on Labor Day weekend is a guys paradise and a woman's hell," said Dawn

Jones.

"We would walk up and down the beach and get harassed," Tamara said, "and that's not my idea of fun," she said.

"We didn't even have to do much said Keisha. "We were just walking around in our jeans and we still got harassed," she said."

Could Virginia Beach on Labor Day weekend, the "meat market" in all its glory, really be that bad?

"The only thing that I've been to that's worse than this was the Greek Fest in Philadelphia," said Dawn.

Vamos a Rapiar

By Linda Betharte
Onyx Staff

With braided hair, jeans on and sneakers on their feet the young men in Cuba are starting a new kind of spanish rap.

Like many rappers before them they prance around the stage, jump up and down and scream into the microphone but the words are in spanish and sometimes the

beats are reminiscent of the old salsa greats.

At a concert held in Alquizar, a town just outside of Havana four groups showed they know something about American rap but they like it better when it has a piece of home.

"Africa is talking" said Norberto Perdomo, a member of a group called Paradon DC. They said although they are in Cuba and rap started in America it is all the same voice. This group of four young men is especially conscious about making their songs uniquely cuban. They introduce verses of poetry by Jose Marti, a famous cuban revolutionary poet, into their rhymes. They also introduce typical cuban music like La Troba, a form of music centered around the guitar, or rumba music which focuses on the drum.

Other groups like Zona Peligrosa, Dangerous Zone, focus in on staying as close to American trends as possible by inserting english words into their rhymes.

Most of the groups do

See RAPIAR, Page 7

PBS Airs New Series on "Africans In America: America's Journey Through Slavery"

Mark your calendar. After the success of the "Eyes on the Prize" series, Public Broadcasting System will soon air a new series, "Africans In America: America's Journey Through Slavery." Expected to draw more than 20 million viewers na-

tionwide, the Africans In America" series will air Monday, October 10 through Thursday, October 22 at 8 PM (EST) on PBS. The Fannie Mae Foundation sponsors the series as a part of its education outreach efforts designed to reach Afri-

cans Americans.

"Africans in America" will be presented in four 90-minute episodes. The series will take viewers on a journey from this country's earliest days as an English settlement, through its war for independence, to its rise

as an international economic power before the Civil War.

"Africans in America" is produced for PBS by WGBH Boston, and was filmed on location across 12 states and three continents.

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE September 15th - October 15th

Maribel Soto
Onyx Staff

Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity for everyone to learn about the culturally diverse Latino population. During any Latin American Festival in Boston, you might see people parading their flags in cars and houses, or on T-shirts, bandanas and hats. This type of pride does not end with the festival or Hispanic Heritage month. Everyday is a celebration of our roots and who we are.

Hispanic Heritage Month Activities on Campus:

Parade of Flags

Thursday October 8
11:45 AM - 1:30 PM
Starts from the AAI

Knowledge Scavenger Hunt

October 19-30
LSCC
Prizes: Gift certificates

1st LASO Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 1998
6:00 PM, 318 CSC

Poetry Reading

Friday October 23rd
7-10 PM, Cabral Center

Latino Movie night

Thursdays
Latino Student Cultural Center
1st movie date TBA

Get Your Groove On

Club Axis:

Thursday and Friday nights enjoy Techno and House on the first floor and hits from the '80s on the second floor. 18+
Axis is on 13 Lansdowne St. This Thursday the group "God Lives" will be playing there at 6pm.

Avalon:

Thursday and Friday nights are Techno, House and Hi-Energy Dance music at Avalon. 19+
Avalon is on 15 Lansdowne St.

Comedy Connection:

Seven days a week catch two comedy shows at Faneul Hall at 8:00pm and 10:15pm. 18+

Dick Doherty's Comedy Vault

Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:00pm go to 124 Boylston Street, across from Boston Common and get your laugh on. 18+

The Roxy:

Friday nights are strictly swing, the Roxy presents live band performances. 19+
Thursday nights are Latin night at the Roxy, playing Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, and House. 19+
The Roxy is on 279 Tremont St. Across from the Wang Center.

Nick's Comedy Stop

Stop by Nick's Comedy Stop on 100 Warrenton St., across the street from the Wang Center.
Saturdays: 7:45-10:00pm
Thursdays and Fridays: 8:30pm
Sundays: 8:00pm

News Tips.

Know of any issues affecting our community?
Call The Onyx Informer
373-2250



Masqueraders at the Boston West Indian Carnival show their colors (photo credits: Eric Esteves)

Urban Beat

Step off of 450 Harrison Avenue in South Boston to Ogunnaike Gallery on 39 Thayer Street. The trek into the art filled gallery places you in the domain of the Yoruba deity Ogun. It suffices to say the trip to Ogunnaike is a visit with God. Truth freely drips off the open mic every Thursday night at 9 pm. You are guaranteed to be elevated by the experience. Ogunnaike also offers independent film forums on weekends. Call 422-6987 for film titles, viewing time and prices of their events.

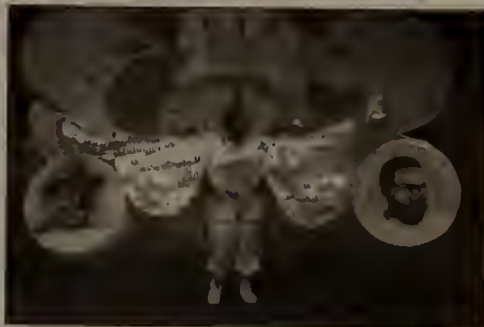
Candle light tables illuminate once dark corners and the smell of Angie's Food Attitude trickles up your nose tempting you to eat even though you just left a delicious meal in Speare Hall, must be AFROCENTRICS! That's right Afrocentrics at 888 Tremont Street is where you can get your intellectual groove on. The featured poet just might be Gil Scott Herin or even Amiri Baraka! So keep your eyes open for their monthly listing of events. There is free music and food from 6:30 until 8:00. If you are a poet feel free to bring your comical work and make sure to sign up. Afrocentrics will be having an attractive student rate throughout the month of October. Call Michael Curry at 361-7746 for more information.

As a poet the Lizard Lounge Poetry Jam puts you in the middle of a conversation between Profesor Blake Newman on bass, King Dwight Hart on drums and Minister Jeff Robinson on saxophone (The Jeff Robinson Trio). They can turn Kool-Aid poetry into Lipton Iced Tea under a waterfall. Doors open at 9pm every Sunday and by the way this is a 21 plus affair. Sorry! the Lizard Lounge is located on 1667 Mass Ave in Cambridge. This Sunday, October 4 Ms. Ayanna McRae, the president of BESS will be featured at the Lounge so do check her out. Sister is fierce!

On October 10 at The Boston Center for the Arts on Tremont St. Michael Rose, VibeWise and ever so versed Jamarhl Crawford will be performing during the Reggae For Unity '98 Concert. This concert will definatley be live so check it out.

CipherSpace: Will be available on October 7. This CD was made during a four day arts collaborative that returned art to its holistic form by removing the boundaries between dance, music, graphiti, song and the spoken word. This CD showcases such artists as Micheal Holley, Tanayi Seabrook, Jamarhl Crawford, Northeastern alumn Omiozele Okoawo and Northeastern's own Iyeoka Okoawo as well as the Robinson Trio. A complete review of the CD will be featured in the next edition of the Onyx Informer.

For all of you Old School heads: TEASE at 54 Canal St., between Haymarket and North Station next to the Fleet Center. It offers a casual atmosphere for the professional mind. DJ Gee Spin Plays Classic Soul and Old School Hip-Hop. The bass starts pumping every Thursday night from 10pm until 2 am.



The Onyx Informer

Since 1972

Co-Editor	Kami-Leigh Agard
Co-Editor	Linda Betharte
Managing Editor	Eric Esteves
Advertising Manager	Kami-Leigh Agard
Business Manager	Jamila Hill
Public Relations Officer	Kerrita McClaughlyn
Photo Editor	Christine B. Dela Cueva

Staff

Kami-Leigh Agard
Linda Betharte
Duane Cardinez
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EDITORIAL

Represent

If you want to hide something from Black people put it in print. The Onyx is here to change that. Too often, we as young Black people in America take for granted the rights and services that our parents and grandparents fought for. We tend to forget how easily the laws can bend and change when it comes to the rights of people of color in the United States.

Right in our own backyard we have the gentrification of Roxbury. Our historically black colleges and universities are losing funding. The wealthiest of all the Black colleges, Howard University, has a budget deficit of 7 million dollars.

As Black students in America, we need to be aware of these issues if we want to maintain the rights that we have, and completely propel our people out of second class citizen status.

As the voice of Black culture on Northeastern's campus, The Onyx wants to keep you informed on issues that effect us as a people no matter where you are from. From America to Haiti to Puerto Rico to Ghana.

Your first step towards change, is to support your voice, The Onyx Informer, by reading it and passing it along to ensure its survival. Your next step is to support our organizations whether it be professional or cultural. Join Student Government, Resident Students Association, Council for University Programs, Minority Student Advisory Board. Make your voice heard and your opinion count. Also vote: participate in the elections.

Be aware of your surroundings, not just Huntington and Mass avenues. Take the bus or the T to communities where our people live: Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester and Jamaica Plain. Whether you are African American, African, West Indian or Latino- whatever happens to Black people there affects Black people over here.

Much love,
The Editors

Make your voice heard.
Send Letters to The Editors or Shaneequa
360 Huntington Ave
430 Curry Student Center
Boston, MA 02115
Call 373-2250

Speaking Out

KERRITA MCCLAUGHLYN

A Different World

Does anybody remember A Different World, with Dwanne Wayne and Whitney and them, and all the fun they used to have. If you do, then like me, you'll have to admit, that's how you thought college was going to be and was the reason you wanted to go.

Northeastern is the dose of reality that killed that dream.

School spirit exists only in the brochures we game parents with. I'm still waiting to see the "off the hook" campus life (I missed DuWop's first and only visit.)

By far, the biggest let down would have to be housing. The infamous housing waitlist, became a Who's Who of upperclassmen with nowhere to live. The voice we hear from Northeastern, now says, "Hello, and welcome to commuter services."

Housing was chosen from a lottery system where names were picked, literally out of a hat. If your name was not chosen, you were placed on a housing wait list. Students not chosen were forced to find apartments off campus in Boston's cramped housing market.

Commuting is rough! It means waking up at some ungodly hour and leaving your house for the entire day. You don't get home until late at night so your day has to be planned down to each minute.

Bonding with other students and enjoying student activities is virtually impossible because of the commute home. The only place you see is the student center and the library, not exactly the den where Dwanne and Ron partied.

Northeastern, to a commuter, is a full time job. Fun is not a factor in this equation. Unlike Dwayne and them, "it is a different world, where we come from." Between high competition for co-op jobs, trekking to school from all corners of Boston and worrying over how we're going to pay for school. Northeastern students do not know what real unadulterated college life is like. The real world hit us with a bang and is still banging away. To all incoming freshmen, I don't mean to burst your bubble. Welcome to the real world, where we come from.

LUISA MELO

What is Education?

This week began my commute to co-op. Walking to Ruggles, Northeastern is still quiet, preparing for its day. What I do see is groups of kids, walking to school or waiting for the T, and I am struck by the thought that their minds are not on school.

The truth is that I do not know where there are from but I see Black and Latino city youth, and I am fully aware of the "education" they receive. I hear their conversations. I see young girls with babies and I ask myself where are they going...where am I, the more "fortunate" college student?

And so I think of Nelson Mandela and the time he spent imprisoned in Robben Island. He created a system of self-education for himself and other prisoners. Each team of prisoners was assigned an instructor (a fellow prisoner) for all subjects. They also created activities to fill otherwise idle hours. In such a way, attaining for themselves dignities otherwise denied.

I do not have an answer or a remedy to what I see, but I feel that education starts within and that is the reason it can be achieved in the most inhuman of conditions. For many of us being here is an accomplishment and a continued struggle...where are we willing to go?

Welcome Freshman

Bienvenidos

On behalf of the Latino/a Student Cultural Center, I want to welcome you to Northeastern University. We at the Center are here to help you adjust to your new environment and to support your efforts as you pursue your education, as you will see earning a degree is not easy. Please stop by the Center and find out what kind of resources we have to help you.

You will find much more than information at the LSCC. We have a wonderful staff of professionals and students who understand the trials and tribulations of university life, as well as all of the joys and benefits that come along with hard work.

We can be your home away from home while fostering an environment conducive to learning. The Center uniquely integrates academics with student activities and our culture. As part of Student Services we are here to help you. The Center is located on 104 Forsyth Street next to Public Safety.

Linda Delgado
Director

Greetings New And Returning Students

First, welcome to Northeastern University in this historic academic year, the dawn of the next century: the year 2000.

This year is also historic in that we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, founded in protest in 1968 by a group of conscientious and visionary students.

Our celebration was launched in January, 1998, on the weekend of May 1-3, 1998.

We raised over \$100,000 in donations and pledges (commitments to be paid over time).

We will have our 30th Anniversary Finale and Kwanzaa Celebration on Friday, December 4, 1998, at the Institute. Join the celebration!

Embrace the Institute as "your special place" on campus!

The staff embraces their role as stewards of a special legacy, champions of academic excellence, and carriers of the torch for justice for our people.

Our staff serve as strong student advocates and offer academic support through tutoring; in-

struction in writing and study skills; course advising; personal and career counseling; financial aid assistance; and a computer lab.

The Institute's third floor library houses an impressive collection of materials about Africans throughout the Diaspora. It is an excellent place to study, browse, and learn more about ourselves.

Our Amilcar Cabral Memorial Student Center, presently under renovations on the first floor, is a place where students can go to socialize. They can play music, ping pong, pool, dominoes, chess, cards and other games.

Speakers discussion groups, meetings, videos, and dances are important features of the Center. It houses the Unity Store where students can purchase snacks and cold drinks. A newly added student lounge will provide a television and comfortable seating for a quiet

So, come to YOUR Institute. Benefit from it! Cherish it! Support it!

Sincerely Yours
Dean Petty-Edwards

Get Involved

The Onyx Informer encourages you to get involved with these organizations. Get more for your tuition money and let your voice be heard. Here are just several that might spark your interest.

African Student Assoc. (NASO)
Meetings:
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
Contact NASO x8295

Black Engineering Student Society (BESS)
Meetings:
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
333 CSC
Contact BESS x5327

Black Student Assoc. (NBSA)
Meetings:
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
African-American Instit.
Contact NBSA x4614

Caribbean Student Org. (CSO)
Meetings:
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
346 CSC
Contact CSO x8292

Latin American Student Association (LASO)
Meetings:
Thursdays, 6 p.m.
319 CSC
Contact LASO x3087

Haitian Student Unity (HSU)
Meetings:
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Contact HSU x3382

Minority Student Advisory Board (MSAB)
Meetings:
1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month
Contact Dean Ella Robertson,
307 Ell for more info.
The Onyx Informer
Meetings:
Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
430 CSC
Contact The Onyx x2250

SOSA, from Page 8
ricane Georges), and Sammy gives back, too, evidenced by his donation of 250 computers to the Dominican government for use in the school system.

That's why we

AKROBATIK from Page 1

Bridgeman said he has been writing rhymes since age eight. "I learned to read and articulate my words at an early age. By age 15 I was already recording demos and performing at clubs in Boston.

"Knowing me is like knowing hip-hop. It embodies me. I am not rapping because I want to be star or just for the money, but because it is my heart." He said that rap artist, KRS 1, has the most influence on him. "KRS 1 has been around for 12 years. I never got the impression that he was doing it for a buck, but because like me, he loves it. Other rap artists that he admires are Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul. Bridgeman describes his rapping style as rugged. "It's very on edge and I put much emotion in all of my work." "I want to



photo credit: C. Dela Cueva

leave a legacy. When people 20 years from now listen to my work, I

praise Sammy because he cares and we care about him. So, what's the moral of the story? Do you want to be like Mike? Or Sosa? I'd suggest Sosa for now, because Air Jordan was literally true; he only hit .202 anyway. Give props to humble heroes everywhere.

Footnote

Would you believe that both McGwire and Sosa are still chasing a legend, Josh Gibson? In the 1931 season, at 19 years of age, Gibson hit 75 home runs in only 154 games. That same season, his team reportedly won a record of 136 wins and 17 losses. Considered one of the greatest

want them to ded in my words. Some feel the sincerity embedded artists whom I do not want to mention just regurgitate other people's work and say things like "I don't understand the language of short money." When I first heard that I was shocked. The people with short money that he is referring include Black people that look up to him. I just feel that is so irresponsible, especially since there are millions of Black kids who emulate artists like him," said Bridgeman.

In the next 10 years Bridgeman who is double majoring in English and Education, plans to see himself not only as a rapper and a producer, but as a teacher. "This will also be my legacy,"

You can get the cassette of Akrobatik's just released single in the first

week of October in any record store in Boston and New York.

power hitters of all-time, he played for the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords, and is credited with 962 home runs in his 17-year career. How could such statistics go virtually unmentioned in all the recent hysteria? Interesting, indeed. Inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972, Gibson starred in the Negro Leagues with fellow Hall-Of-Famer Jackie Robinson, before professional baseball was integrated. Sosa would have been playing in the Negro Leagues had our forefathers not paved the way for equality. But he's not, and he's proving why he belongs in the "Big Leagues." They are our heroes. And so is Sammy.

Ask Shaneequa

Hi, everyone!
I'm Shaneequa and I as well as the other righteous members of the *ONYX Informer* have decided that our people need an open yet somewhat confidential forum to address the issues that we face. My responses may not always seem right but hopefully they will get you to think before you act. Peace!

Dear Shaneequa,

I've been going out with this girl for 4 months. We're really digging each other but in 29 more days, I'm leaving for the army. What should I do?
Confused
Army Boy

Dear Confused,

Hey, long distance relationships can be tough but if mileage is the only thing keeping you apart, don't make it more difficult than it really is. In fact, this early in a relationship is the best time to find out about a person. With talking on the phone, e-mailing (free lynx account), and the long lost art of writing letters, it's very possible that this could work. The ladies always fall for a guy who takes the time

to tell her how he's feeling. You're also going to need her support because the army can be very stressful physically as well as emotionally. Lots of luck! -S.

Dear Shaneequa,

I have a male friend who tells me everything. He is a great person, which is why I've been thinking of him as more than a friend. I don't know how he would react if I said anything. I'm scared that telling him might ruin our friendship. Please help me with my dilemma.
Dazed and Cautious



Dear D.C.,
It sounds like this is a very successful friendship but do you also tell him everything? If so, then you should be honest about your feelings and see how he

reacts. If you don't tell him everything, then you should think about that first. Ask yourself if he's really worth showing your true self to. You will have to mutually bond mentally before even considering taking the next step. Make sure that the comfort zone has already been established. Peace! S.

RAPIAR, from Page 3

use rap music from America as their background music in a way similar to the Puff Daddy form of music production, they simply put words over an existing beat of a song like, "Cupid" by 112. Others resort to beat-boxing to make their background music and those few who have the resources contract live bands to do their background music.

The rappers try their best to follow the example of artists like

Lauryn Hill and The Fugees. They talk about issues affecting the young people in Cuba like AIDS and about general social issues they see in movies like racism and drugs.

Although rap in Cuba is still primarily an underground explosion there are some who say "I wake up in the morning listening to rap music and I go to sleep listening to rap music," said one member of the young group Media Raza.

What's Happening around NU

Wednesday, Sept. 30
-Caribbean Student Org.
ORIENTATION ntg
6 PM, 346 Curry Student Center
-Northeastern Black Student Association
KICKOFF MEETING, 7 PM, African American Institute

Thursday, October 1
QUAD SHOW
11:45 AM - 1:30 PM, Krentzman Quad
-Latin American Student Organization
PARADE OF THE FLAGS

11:20 AM African American Institute
-Black Engineering Student Society
KICKOFF MEETING, 6 PM, Curry Student Center, Room 333

Friday, October 2
HAPPY BIRTHDAY NORTHEASTERN
Birthday Party
11:45 AM - 1:30 PM, Krentzman Quad

Saturday, October 3
CELEBRATION OF A CENTURY
Centennial Closing Celebration Street Fair, Carnival Rides, food, music and more.
9 AM - 5 PM, Robinson Lot, Centennial & Krentzman Quads

Monday, October 5
BLACK FACULTY and STAFF EVENT
4:30 - 6:30 PM, Egan Amphitheater

Tuesday, October 6
-Haitian Student Unity
KICKOFF MEETING, 6:30 PM, 435 Curry Student Center
-The Onyx Informer
OPEN STAFF MEETING, 7:30 PM, 430 Curry Student Center

Wednesday, October 7
Black Strategic Leadership Council

A NIGHT WITH BLACK SCHOLARS
6 PM, Curry Student Center
DIVERSITY SERIES PANEL DISCUSSION
Featuring "Ethnic Woman"
7:30 PM, McCleod Suites, Curry Student Center
Northeastern Black Student Association
TRIP TO GOOD TIMES
Contact NBSA

Saturday, October 10
FOOTBALL GAME
vs. Villanova, 12:30 PM, Parsons Field

Sunday, October 11
International Students Organization
ISO ON THE GO
Welcome to America Party Cruise in Boston Harbor,
10:15 PM - 2 AM

Monday, October 12
CORPORATE RESUME CRITIQUES
5 PM - 7 PM, Contact Career Services

Thursday, October 15
-Student Government Association
SGA CONCERNS FAIR,
12 noon - 1:30 PM
-Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
CANDIDATE FORUM, 6 PM, Curry Student Center
-Black Engineering Student Society
PROGRAMMING WORKSHOP
6 PM, room TBA

Friday, October 16
BASKETBALL MIDNIGHT JAMFEST
12 midnight, Cabot Gym

Wednesday, October 21
-Northeastern Black Student Association
SPADES/DOMINOES

TOURNAMENT
7PM, Cabral Center, African-American Institute

Thursday, October 22
-Black Engineering Student Society
TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
6 PM, room TBA

Saturday, October 24
HOMECOMING PARADE
10 AM, Huntington Avenue & Northeastern
HOMECOMING FOOTBALL
vs. University of Richmond, 12:30 PM, Parsons Field

Tuesday, October 27
Haitian Student Unity
PAINT BALL TRIP
Time and place, TBA

Wednesday, October 28
Northeastern Black Student Association
MEET THE ADMINISTRATION MEETING
7PM, African American Institute
COLLEGE NIGHT AT COGNEX CORPORATION
6 PM - 8:30 PM.
Bus departs in front of Ruggie Station at 4:45PM (look for Cognex sign)
For more info:
cburton@cognex.com
or (508) 650-300 ext. 4545

Have The Onyx Cover Your Event.

Contact us at 373-2250 or stop by Room 430, Curry Student Center

Remembering A Great Athlete Flo-Jo Dead at 38

Andre Jean Francois
Onyx Correspondent

On the morning of September 21, the track world and the rest of us were deeply shocked to learn about the death of a legend Florence Griffith-Joyner, also commonly known as Flo-Jo.

She died of an apparent heart seizure at age 38.

Griffith-Joyner was the wife of 1984 Olympic triple-jump gold medalist Al Joyner and the sister-in-law of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the six-time Olympic medalist and world heptathlon record-holder.

She revolutionized the world of female track. She set race records that not only women can not top, but men have not been able to break.

Flo-Jo's golden triple at the Seoul Games were in the 100, 200 and 4x100 meters relay. She still holds world records in 100- and 200-meter dash relays.

She set the 100

mark of 10.49 seconds at the quarterfinals of the 1998 Olympic trials, and since then no woman has ever broken 10.60.

She then smashed the world 200 record in the Olympic final, clocking 21.34. Only one other woman, Marion Jones, has run the 100 in less than 21.70.

Flo-Jo exhibited talent on and off the field. She set goals not only for herself but for many African American women alike.

Nicole Veal, a Freshman at NU, said, "I was deeply saddened by Flo-Jo's death. Flo-Jo was an inspiration to me as a track athlete in high school. I admired her flare, attitude and her ability to have success as a female athlete."

After retiring from competition in 1989, she pushed herself just as hard as she had on the track. She served as co-chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Resting in Peace: Fallen Heroes

Eric Esteves

When I tell people that I'm from South Carolina and not New York or Boston, like everyone and their mothers, the usual response is, "Oh, well then, how the hell did you hear about Northeastern?" I used to always say that I had simply applied to every college during my senior year in high school or I would tell them that my initial interest in Northeastern was because of the athletic training program. Somehow, when all of the smoke finally cleared, I realized exactly what it was that drew me to Northeastern in the first place.

I was ball-playing nerd and admired the good guys who worked hard and excelled as a result. I even amassed a huge collection of basketball cards. On the back of my favorite ball player's card read the following: Hometown: Baltimore; College: Northeastern.

That player was Reggie Lewis, he was my main man. I rooted for him and he played

his heart out for me. Silly me for only wanting him to be named league MVP and win another championship for the Celtics. He played in the city where the American Revolution centered and where intolerance had abounded for years but still, he remained at ease and lax. My mother went to Brandeis, but she wasn't comfortable so far up north with such strangers. I wonder if Reggie felt uncomfortable as he walked into the Brandeis gym over five years ago before he collapsed due to a heart ailment. He was there practicing, helping himself get better, bettering his team. That's what he was about; caring.

Another Northeastern athlete was about caring as well. Christopher Midgett. Spring Break at NU is only a week long. For most, it's a time to relax, rest, recuperate, and regroup but for Chris that week long visit to his grandmother's home in Virginia ended abruptly with a

single bullet. The victim of a vicious drive-by shooting, this caring brother best exemplified how to be a role model. Whether it was the disabled girl that he lifted out of a wheelchair and danced with at his high school prom, working hard to earn more playing time as defensive end, volunteering his time in the community, or giving advice to teammates, Chris was about dedication. His memory is fresh within the minds and hearts of many NU students, including those who were especially close to him. This football season, go to the games, cheer the team on, cheer Chris' spirit on and support the friends and teammates who became his family, his boys.

As black student athletes at Northeastern, Chris and Reggie should be looked upon as people to emulate. Carry the torch that they lit and pass it along. Root for exemplary Black men who led by example and are now gone physically, but who are here spiritually and will always remain in our thoughts and hearts. One love. Easy.

Smooth Slammin' Sosa

By Eric Esteves
Onyx Columnist

As the power slugger on a World Series contending team, Sammy Sosa is undeniably the man.

His 66 home runs have made him a household name across America, despite the media's obvious favoritism towards Mark McGwire.

McGwire broke Roger Maris' record for the most home runs [61] in a single season just one week prior to Sammy, but Sammy broke the record, too.

He's a rare, raw talent. But he was always seemingly, the "Other Guy," passed over for

the main angle, McGwire chasing ghosts legends all that jazz. But Sammy was cool throughout it all.

"It's absolutely ridiculous. At other games, they'd stop in the middle of them to watch McGwire when he's up to bat. Sammy barely gets mentioned," remarks NU middler Priscila Torres. "But, if you had been in Jamaica Plain when [Sammy] broke Maris' record...Oh my God!"

Sammy's homers mean something. They mean a lot to baseball as a sport, to the Chicago Cubs, to Sammy, to the Sosa familia, to the non-believers, to Blacks and Latinos, to America, and

most importantly, to the natives of the Dominican Republic. Sosa shined the brightest out of a host of Dominican players who have made huge impacts on the game.

This year can aptly be double-dubbed, "Home Run Derby" and, the "Year of the Dominican."

Sosa has helped the export athlete light to shine bright. Montreal Expo, Moises Alou, will most likely be second in the National League Most Valuable Player race behind Sammy, and Vladimir Guerrero (Pedro's little brother) is a rising superstar. Local star, Pedro Martinez, has killed so many bat-

ters so very softly over at Fenway for the Red Sox. Manny Ramirez and Alex "A-Rod" Rodriguez no longer play in their star teammates' shadows. Both young men are bona-fide superstars with mad game. And to top it all off, did you really think that I was going to forget about our very own Carlos Pena, who, as a Northeastern junior majoring in engineering, got drafted in June with the 10th pick in the first round of the MLB draft.

Dominicans represent in the United States as well. NU sophomore, David Pita notes, "Sosa is representing us in

many ways...and not simply because he's Dominican. He's doing it for all Latinos. That's why I support him." Adds LASO presidente, Tony Hernandez, "He's Dominican, yet he carries Roberto Clemente's number. [Sosa wears number] twenty-one (21). He's the Roberto Clemente of the 90's. All Latinos love him because he's the first to reach such a plateau."

Dominican athletes give back to their communities, too. Pedro and Ramon Martinez give back (Pedro helped out with victims of Hur-

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